

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3836

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1423

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XDS 1

TAGS: OVIP CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FIGUERES VISIT TO WASHINGTON

FOR ACTING ASST SECRETARY CRIMMINS AND DEPTASST SECRETARY
HURWITCH

1. IF PRESIDENT FIGUERES DOES NOT SEE PRESIDENT NIXON DURING HIS
STAY IN WASHINGTON MAY 3 AND 4, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FALLOUT HERE
WILL HURT. ROSTA RICANS WILL SIMPLY NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW IT CAN
BE THAT THE CHIEF OF STATE OF A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT CAN BE IN
WASHINGTON EVEN ON A PRIVATE TRIP AND NOT MEET THE PRESIDENT IN
SOME WAY. IT IS NOT THAT THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC FUROR HERE;
INDEED MOST WILL PROBABLY BE TOO POLITE TO MENTION IT PUBLICLY.
BUT WE SHOULD NOT DELUDE OURSELVES. COSTA RICANS WILL FEEL
SNUBBED AND OFFENDED. FIGUERES HIMSELF, WITH HIS MASSIVE EGO AND
CATALAN NATURE, WILL FEEL PERSONALLY SNUBBED, THOUGH AGAIN HE
WILL NOT SHOW OR ADMIT IT. HOWEVER COSTA RICANS MAY FEEL ABOUT DON
PEPE, HE IS AFTER ALL THE CHIEF OF STATE AND THEREFORE A SYMBOL.
WHAT IT WILL ALL ADD UP TO IS THE CONCLUSION HERE THAT WE REALLY
DO NOT CARE ABOUT COSTA RICA AND THE GROWTH OF A CORRESPONDING
FEELING OF WHY BOTHER ABOUT THE US-- WHAT' S IN IT FOR THEM TO BE
COOPERATIVE WITH US.

2. COSTA RICAN SENSITIVITY TO HOW US TREATS THEM WAS ILLUSTRATED

BY THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WHO QUESTIONED ME SHARPLY AT LUNCH
TODAY ABOUT A WIRE- SERVICE REPORT THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD VISIT
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" ONE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY" ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP, THE

ASSUMPTION BEING THAT THIS WAS NOT COSTA RICA. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THATN DESTINATION WAS SMOKE SCREEN IN VIEW LACK OF ECONOMICALLY VIABLE PORTUGUESE CUSTOMER FOR SUBJECT AIRCRAFT. COE FURTHER COMMENTED THAT HE CONSIDERS THAT HIRSCHMANN MUST HAVE BEEN WITTING OF RHODESIAN DESTINATION, ALTHOUGH HE THINKS THAT JET AVIATION MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SERVICING AND PREPARATION OF THE AIRCRAFT. JET AVIATION IS ONE OF FEW BOEING- QUALIFIED MAINTENANCE GROUPS IN EUROPE. JET AVIATION' S ROLE, ALTHOUGH LIKELY CONSPIRATORY, MAY NOT HAVE GONE BEYOND SERVICING OF AIRCRAFT. COE ADVISES THAT HE WILL PROBE FURTHER INTO THE MATTER ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

3. JET AVIATION IS PARTICIPANT IN US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AIRCRAFT REPAIR STATION PROCEDURE FC-43 UNDER WHICH QUARTERLY REVIEWS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES INVOLVING US- ORIGIN EQUIPMENT ARE MADE IN WASHINGTON. COMMERCE MAY WISH TO QUERY JET AVIATION, VIA EMBASSY BERN, ON DISPOSITION OF ANY US- ORIGIN EQUIPMENT IN RHODESIAN AFFAIR. EMBASSY IS PREVENTED BY SWISS LAW FROM CONTACTING JET AVIATION DIRECTLY. BELIEVE THAT THOUGHT OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AGAINST JET AVIATION (DENIAL ORDER IF JET AVIATION WITTINGLY INVOLVED IN THE DIVERSION) SUFFICIENTLY SOBERING TO INDUCE JET AVIATION TO SURFACE SOME FACTS.

DAVIS

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